

39413. CASTANEA CRENATA Sieb. and Zucc. Fagaceæ. Chestnut.

From Tokyo, Japan. Presented by Miss B. Catherine Pifer. Received November 13, 1914.

Imperial chestnut.

39414. FRANKLINIA ALATAMAHA Bartram. Theaceæ.

(*Gordonia pubescens* L'Herit.)

From Philadelphia, Pa. Presented by Mr. Ogleby Paul, Fairmount Park. Received October 7, 1914.

See S. P. I. Nos. 26930 and 26931 for previous introductions and description.

"This is probably one of the least known of our small trees, and yet it stands among the most beautiful of our native plants. In habit of growth and in the leaf the *Gordonia*, or, as it is sometimes called, *Franklinia*, is not unlike a *magnolia*, although in the flower it more nearly resembles a *camellia*. Furthermore, it is especially valuable on account of its late flowering period, plants being in bloom at the present time in the Arnold Arboretum. The *Gordonia* is of a rather upright habit, forming a well-shaped head. It is a member of the tea family, Theaceæ. Its finely crenate, lance-obovate leaves are of the color of the leaves of *Magnolia acuminata*, but whitish downy beneath. The fragrant flowers are borne on the ends of the branches on short, stout peduncles. They are pure satiny white, about 2½ inches in diameter and bowl shaped at their best, later becoming flatter as the flower ages. The stamens are bright golden yellow and are placed directly on the petals, where they form a tuft perhaps a half inch or more in diameter, making a beautiful combination of color against the pure white of the petals. The pod is globular, light green, and covered with a whitish down. This plant was first discovered in southern Georgia, whence it was introduced into Europe in 1744, and named by Dr. Garden in honor of his 'old master, Dr. James Gordon,' and by Ellis it was dedicated to a London nurseryman of the same name. This nurseryman appears to have been a contemporary of Philip Miller. It was called *Franklinia* in honor of Dr. Franklin. During the past hundred years it has not been found in a wild state, although much searched for. This fact makes it not only a rare and valuable tree, but one which should be more propagated and kept, lest it be lost entirely to future generations. In the vicinity of Philadelphia there are several trees growing in the open without protection, but north of that point its hardiness can not be wholly depended upon. In protected situations, however, I see no reason why we of the North can not enjoy its exquisite beauty, provided, of course, we give it protection. In the Arnold Arboretum the plants receive part shelter from the other plants, which are planted about them, and came through the winter of 1913-14 when so many other beautiful things perished. The *Gordonia* may be propagated from layers or from seeds, and will thrive in a peaty soil or in leaf mold and sand." (*Hubert M. Canning, in Horticulture, Oct. 24, 1914.*)

39415. SPATHODEA CAMPANULATA Beauv. Bignoniaceæ.

From Peradeniya, Ceylon. Presented by Mr. H. F. Macmillan, superintendent of the botanic gardens. Received November 14, 1914.

"This seems to be the only species of *Spathodea* generally known in the East. The tree flowers profusely at Peradeniya almost throughout the year, except in the dry season, but seldom or never bears fruit here. It produced, however, fruit and seeds in our former garden at Anuradhapura, now abandoned, where the climate is much drier than at Peradeniya, the rainfall being limited to three months of the year." (*Macmillan.*)